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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-5004

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MICHAEL B. ENZI
WYOMING

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Secretary of Treasury Steven T. Mnuchin
Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service Charles P. Rettig
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Mnuchin and Commissioner Rettig:

My staff has informed me that the Internal Revenue Service taxpayer assistance center in Cheyenne, Wyoming, has been closed. According to press reports, the office will be closed indefinitely because employees have retired, and it plans to re-open only after new staff are brought on.

Closing an IRS office at any time creates problems for the taxpayers in my state. But it is particularly burdensome when it occurs during the filing season – and the first one after our comprehensive tax reform -- when folks continue to learn how to comply with new tax changes.

I am deeply troubled by this situation and I believe closing the office and directing Wyomingites to the IRS website for questions and information is an unsatisfactory solution.

The IRS mission is to “provide America's taxpayers top quality service by helping them understand and meet their tax responsibilities and enforce the law with integrity and fairness to all.” Closing an IRS taxpayer assistance center at the start of the filing season in no way honors nor upholds this mission and only bolsters my longstanding concerns about questionable decision-making that takes place in this critical agency.

I would ask your office to create a plan to reopen the Cheyenne, Wyoming, office as quickly as possible, and if necessary, bring in personnel from other offices on a temporary basis, until full-time employees permanently located in Cheyenne can resume normal operations. I would also like to know how the IRS plans to rectify long-term (and the time needed for doing so) this shortage of staff in Cheyenne and why a retirement caused the office to shut down. Are there not plans made within the agency to address the natural transition that takes place in offices?

It is important that Wyomingites can depend on timely assistance during the filing season and throughout the year and that the IRS lives up to its mission and service to the nation's taxpayers. Former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes once said “taxes are what we pay for a civilized society.” Wyomingites take pride in being good citizens. Let's help them continue that strong tradition by giving them the service they have earned and deserve.

Respectfully,



Senator Michael B. Enzi

Chairman of the United States Budget Committee